

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 12, and 15-17 have been amended.

Claim 4 has been canceled.

Claim 18 has been added.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 12-17 because of various informalities. These informalities have been corrected. Claim 6 was also amended in order to correct the same punctuation informality objected to in claims 12, 15, and 16.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 17 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,310,968, (Hawkins et al.) In order to address Examiner's rejections, claims 1 and 17 have been amended.

The Examiner has acknowledged that the subject matter of claim 4 is allowable in independent form as it is not taught or suggested in the prior art. Claim 4 has been canceled and its subject matter has been incorporated into claims 1 and 17.

Applicant notes that Hawkins et al. emphasizes that it prefers **not** to use transmissive sources (so as to minimize dose to patients – column 7, lines 29-31). When transmission source based information is reluctantly used in Hawkins et al., it is certainly not used to establish information on density of the sample. By doing so the invention is able to correct the different samples that make up the body of material being considered differently to account for their different attenuation characteristics. This is particularly important in the consideration of nuclear waste containers as detailed information on the form and distribution of materials within them is often not available.

Applicant believes that all other pending claims are allowable as each depends from an allowable claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

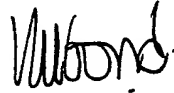
Examiner has indicated that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 6 has been amended per the Examiner's instructions

New Claim

Applicant believes that claim 18 is fully distinguishable from the prior art for similar reasons to those given in the discussion of amended claims 1 and 17.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bond", is written over the printed name.

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